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cont.

74. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the T1R2 polypeptide and the T1R3 polypeptide are covalently linked.

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims

Claims 55-74 are added by the present amendment. With the entry of this amendment, claims 1-74 are pending.

All of the newly added claims are supported in the original claims. No new matter is added

II. Restriction

Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group VII (claims 31, 32, 33, 49-51 and new claims 55-74).

According to the MPEP, where claims can be examined together without undue burden, the Examiner must examine the claims on the merits even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions. *See*, the MPEP at 803.01. In establishing that an "undue burden" would exist for co-examination of claims, the Examiner must show that examination of the claims would involve substantially different prior art searches, making the co-examination burdensome. Applicants respectfully submit that examination of the claims in Groups I-VII would not create an undue burden and respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement in this case.

In particular, Applicants request that Applicant reconsider the restriction of Groups III from Group VII. Group III is directed to T1R3/T1R2 heteromeric polypeptides. Group VII is directed to the use of the same polypeptides. Therefore, a search of method of using the polypeptides should necessarily identify all of the art relevant for the polypeptides themselves. Applicants respectfully request consolidation of Groups III and VII.

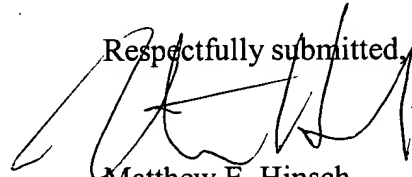
III. Species Election

Applicants elect the following species: SEQ ID NO:9 for T1R2 and SEQ ID NO:15 for T1R3. Claims 31, 32, 33, 49-51 and 55-74 read on these species.

The election is made with the understanding that upon the determination that the elected species is free of the prior art, additional species will be examined in accordance with MPEP § 803.02, which states that "should no prior art be found that anticipates or renders obvious the elected species, the search of the Markush-type claim will be extended" and that "[t]he prior art search will be extended to the extent necessary to determine the patentability of the Markush-type claim."

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-7554.

Respectfully submitted,



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